

November 3, 2003

RE: RM-10810

Dear Commissioners,

This petition is another compromise petition.

The Advance Class is the big loser here. They had to pass almost the same test as the current Extra. Now, they have to give up their current phone sub-bands. What a deal. Really make you want to upgrade. In real fairness, the petitioner should have given the current Advanced Class credit for the Extra Class. Gee, the Advanced Class had to pass a 13 wpm CW test.

The petitioner pointed out the growth that is expected from the changes that he asks. Well, lets look at what happened when the code speed was reduced to 5 wpm in 2000. The Extra Class and General Class grew. Was that really a big surprise? The only real growth from this petition will be in the General Class.

The code will not create any growth in the Extra Class. Who would want to learn CW to get 100 KHz of exclusive CW frequencies? What is the incentive in that? Even if you gave the Extra Class full phone privileges across the entire amateur bands, it would not create major growth in the Extra Class.

The idea of reducing the license classes is all right. Requiring a code test is nuts.

Deny this petition.

Regards,
Melvin Lehmann